



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David L. Huber
Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 2, 2007
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CONTACT: SANDY FOCKEN
PHONE: (502) 582-5911
FAX: (502) 582-5097

CALIFORNIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO AGGRAVATED IDENTITY THEFT AND CREDIT CARD FRAUD

- Used counterfeit driver's license and credit cards

LOUISVILLE, KY - Louis E. Franklin, age 52, of Buena Vista, California, pled guilty on June 29, 2007, to conspiracy, aggravated identity theft, access device fraud, and entry of the secure area of an airport under false identification, U.S. Attorney David L. Huber announced.

Between December 21, 2006 and December 29, 2006, Franklin traveled from California to Louisville, Kentucky, on at least two occasions using counterfeit California driver's licenses and in possession of seven counterfeit Capitol One credit cards. Franklin had been recruited at a shelter in Buena Park, California, by an individual to travel to Louisville to obtain cash advances on counterfeit credit cards. He was provided Southwest Airlines tickets from California to Louisville.

On December 21, 2006, Franklin rented a car at the airport and a room at Days Inn using a counterfeit credit card. He went to several banks in Louisville and obtained over \$7,000 in cash advances on counterfeit credit cards. He wired this money to California to a co-conspirator.

On December 28, 2006, Franklin rented a car at Budget Car Rental and stayed at the Marriott Inn using one of the credit cards and using one of his aliases. The next day, he drove to Jeffersonville, Indiana, where he went to at least five area banks and obtained, or attempted to obtain, cash advances using the counterfeit credit cards. Franklin returned to Louisville the same

day where he visited several locations of Western Union before he succeeded in making two wire transfers of \$4,000 each to Los Angeles, California.

He returned to Clarksville, Indiana, on December 29, 2006, where he was arrested at Stock Yards Bank for attempting to obtain a \$1,000 cash advance using the counterfeit credit card and counterfeit driver's license.

Franklin also pled guilty to entering the passenger boarding area of the airport using false identification.

The maximum potential penalties are 57 years in prison, a \$2,000,000 fine, and up to 5 years supervised release.

The plea was entered before Judge Charles R. Simpson, III, United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Marisa J. Ford and was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

Franklin is scheduled to be sentenced on October 11, 2007, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville.

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